

- If someone else is digging or drilling on your property, be aware that you may own some of the utility lines and other underground facilities on your property. You are responsible for marking their location. This includes lines such as those running from private wells to homes and home septic lines.
- For more information on locating lines you own, request a copy of the PUC's Property Owners Fact Sheet by calling the PUC toll-free at 1-800-452-4699 or by visiting www.maine.gov/mpuc.

If You Hit A Line

- If you damage, dislocate or disturb any underground utility line, immediately notify the affected utility.
- If damage creates safety concerns, call the fire department and take immediate steps to safeguard health and property.
- Any time an underground line is damaged or disturbed, or if lines are improperly marked, you must file an Incident Report with the PUC. For an Incident Report form visit www.maine.gov/mpuc or call the PUC at 1-800-452-4699.

Negligence and non-compliance with the above rules may result in fines that could reach \$5,000 or more!

If You Don't Call, Here's What Can Happen

- Personal injury, including loss of life.
- Damage to utility lines such as telephone, cable, emergency fire and police, electric, natural gas, pipelines, sewer, traffic signals and water lines.
- Costly delays.
- Expensive repairs.
- Legal problems.
- Civil penalties.
- Liability.

So whether you're a contractor, excavator, underground utility operator, property owner, or just planning to dig – Do Your Part!

- Pre-mark the location of your dig.
- Call Dig Safe toll-free, 1-888-DIGSAFE, before you start your project.
- Call utilities that are not Dig Safe members.
- Wait for lines to be marked.
- Respect all marks.
- Dig with care.

Even when precautions are taken accidents can still happen. If a line is hit or even scratched, please call the underground utility operator and file a report with the Maine PUC.

APWA Color Code for marking underground utility lines	
Electric	Reclaimed Water
Gas/Oil	Sewer
Communication/CATV	Temporary Survey Marking
Water	Proposed Excavation



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Augusta, ME 04333-0018
(207) 287-3831 / (800) 452-4699
www.maine.gov/mpuc



Dig Safe System, Inc.
1-888-DIGSAFE (1-888-344-7233)
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Contractors
Excavators
Landscapers
Property
Owners

Dig Safe[®] in Maine



**Public Utilities
Commission**

**Get All the Dirt on Maine's
Dig Safe Rules**

Dig Safe® is Your First Call

Safe digging starts when you call 1-888-DIGSAFE. But that call is only the first step in an ongoing process that requires everyone's cooperation, responsiveness and good judgement.



Throughout Maine, careless digging, drilling and blasting cause far-reaching consequences – from serious personal injury and environmental damage to costly delays and disruption of utility service. But, by working together, we can keep these accidents to a minimum.

Maine has new rules for safe digging with serious consequences if you don't comply. The rules apply to all groups involved in ground-penetrating projects including excavators, landscapers, utility line owners, and property owners. The Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is vigorously enforcing these rules, so please make sure you know and understand them.

Dig Safe® is ready to help! This NO COST service starts with your call to Dig Safe, before you dig. Dig Safe will have member utilities mark the location of the underground lines and other facilities they own or maintain, so when you dig, drill or blast, you can do it safely.

Dig Safe, though, only notifies its "member" utilities about the dig. When you call, Dig Safe will advise you of member utilities in your area. If you are aware of other utilities, you must notify these non-member utilities directly. Non-member utilities generally include town or city water and sewer districts, and small local utilities, such as some electric, telephone or other utilities.

You must call for *any* project – large or small – where you'll be disturbing the earth in any way using mechanical methods. In this brochure, we simply call these activities "excavating," but they really include all kinds of ground-penetrating activities, such as:

- Installing mailboxes or clotheslines
- Planting trees or shrubs
- Rebuilding walls or driveways
- Major landscaping projects or building additions
- Installing sewer lines, septic systems or drains
- Road construction or reconstruction

If You're Excavating

- Pre-mark the boundaries of your proposed excavation with white paint, flags or stakes. Add the excavator's initials to the pre-mark so locators know they are at the right site. If using a single stake to pre-mark, note the radius of the proposed dig on the pre-mark.
- Call Dig Safe, toll-free, at 1-888-DIGSAFE, at least three business days – but no more than 30 calendar days – before starting work. Don't assume someone else will make the call.
- Be ready with all important information: the city/town, street/road, location description, extent and type of work, contact person and phone number and the excavator/company name and phone number.
- If blasting, notify Dig Safe at least one business day in advance.
- For emergency excavations, pre-mark and call Dig Safe. Dig Safe handles emergency locating requests 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- For jobs involving several subcontractors, the excavator actually doing the digging must make sure the project has a Dig Safe job ticket.
- Don't Guess! Call even if you are working in a rural area or on private property and think you know where utilities are located. It's a FREE call – you aren't charged for calls to Dig Safe or for the utility-locating service.

- Wait three business days for lines to be located and marked with color-coded paint, flags or stakes. Note the color of the marks and the type of utilities they indicate.
- If Dig Safe, non-member utilities in the area and the property owners notify you that there are no utilities in the work area, you may start work immediately.
- Re-notify Dig Safe and the non-member utilities if the digging, drilling or blasting does not occur within 30 calendar days, or if the marks are lost due to weather conditions, site work activity or any other reason.
- Dig with care! Always hand dig within 18 inches in any direction of any underground line until the line is exposed. Mechanical methods may be used for initial site penetration, such as removal of pavement or rock.
- If you find unmarked utilities, immediately notify the utility owner. Treat them as "live" until the owner visits the site and identifies them as abandoned.
- Do not backfill over unmarked or damaged lines without permission from the utility owner.
- Dig Safe requirements are in addition to town, city and/or state DOT street opening permit requirements.
- For complete Dig Safe requirements, call the PUC or visit their website for a free copy of the Dig Safe rule.

If You're a Property Owner

- YES! You're responsible, even for "backyard" projects or landscaping.
- If you are acting as the excavator for your projects, you must also follow all requirements in the "If You're Excavating" section of this brochure.

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